

*Library of Michigan's Quarterly Newsletter*

**Winter 2006**

***In Every  
Issue***

LM News *pg. 2*

MeL:The  
Library Made  
With Me in  
Mind! *pg. 8*

Get Smart *pg. 9*

Legal-Ease *pg. 10*

Barbara Brown  
Profile *pg. 11*



# News from Nancy

State Librarian Nancy R. Robertson



Greetings!

Since my appointment as state librarian just over a year ago, I've had the opportunity to travel the state and visit dozens of libraries. Although I knew, intellectually, that each library is unique, my experience of actually getting out on the road and hearing first-hand about your

successes, your challenges, your long-term goals ... well, talk about enlightening!

I'm pleased to say that I'll continue my travels this month, with visits to several libraries in Michigan's thumb area – a part of the state I've never traversed before. Such visits are great fun and help me to establish real relationships throughout the state, relationships that will serve us all well as we work to better the environment for Michigan's libraries.

I also want to augment my opportunities to make connections with libraries, librarians and their staff. Because I try to get to as many places as possible in the one or two days I'm on the road for a visit, tours like the ones I've described above are often whirlwind experiences.

This spring, we plan to take the concept a step further, with more than a dozen "Meet the State Librarian" town meetings that will give me the opportunity to engage in more extended conversation with library directors and staff. Our goal? To hear specifics on what libraries of various types, sizes, and geographic or economic situations need that they cannot provide for themselves, their patrons and communities.

We'll hold these gatherings at convenient locations across the state, enabling attendance by folks from all types of libraries and from across library cooperative boundaries and membership. I hope to get frank, thoughtful input about your libraries' needs regarding services, continuing education, consultation, etc. Your valuable contributions at these town meetings will allow the Library of Michigan and its partners to assess how we currently meet your needs and how we can do better in the future.

The town-meeting format ensures that those of you who attend – and I hope there are many, many who can! – will benefit by hearing the ideas offered by your peers in libraries like your own and those from libraries and communities that differ from yours. Truly, the more ideas we share, the greater our opportunity to affirm libraries' value as part of the backbone of Michigan's social, educational and economic infrastructure.

I look forward to talking with you soon! Best wishes for a safe, peaceful holiday season,

*Nancy*

# LM News

## 'Ernie and Tram' Program Helps Give Seven Michigan Libraries a \$1,000 Boost

Seven public libraries have been selected to receive \$1,055 each in matching funds from the Ernie and Tram Library Endowments Fund. This fund was created with proceeds from the Ernie and Tram Go to Bat for Michigan Public Libraries program, which – with the support of Hall of Fame broadcaster Ernie Harwell and former Detroit Tigers manager Alan Trammell – helps create or expand endowment funds at public libraries in Michigan.

The libraries selected to receive funds are Briggs Public Library in St. Johns, Curtis Township Library in Glennie, Lincoln Township Public Library in Stevensville, Newaygo Area District Library, St. Ignace Public Library, Shelby Area District Library and Wayne Public Library.

Now in its second year, the Ernie and Tram Go to Bat for Michigan Public Libraries program raises money through the sale of tickets to a Detroit Tigers game. This year the Tigers generously donated back to the Library of Michigan Foundation \$9 of every \$20 ticket sold by Michigan's public libraries for the May 21, 2006 game at Comerica Park. Ticket sales were organized and promoted by the directors of Michigan's 13 library cooperatives. This year's proceeds totaled just over \$7,000.

Eighteen libraries applied for awards this year. A selection committee including State Librarian Nancy Robertson, Library of Michigan Foundation Director Judith Moore and representatives from two library cooperatives evaluated applications. Recipient libraries must raise \$1,000 in matching funds, show that they have already established or are in the process of establishing an endowment fund, and demonstrate a commitment and plan to grow the fund in the future.

*The 2007 Summer Reading Program manuals have been mailed to all public libraries, branch libraries and library cooperatives. It has come to our attention that some teen manuals are missing pages. Please let me know if you have not received your manual or if you require replacement pages for your teen manual.*

*-Deb Bacon Ziegler - [bacon-zieglerd@michigan.gov](mailto:bacon-zieglerd@michigan.gov)*



## Excellence Exemplified: Washtenaw County, Spring Lake and White Pigeon Libraries Honored for Outstanding Public Service

State Librarian Nancy Robertson presented the Washtenaw County Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled with the 2006 State Librarian's Excellence Award for exemplary public service on Oct. 12 during the Michigan Library Association annual conference at the Renaissance Center in Detroit. The Library of Michigan Foundation gives this prestigious honor, which includes a trophy and \$5,000 in privately raised funds to be used for library service, to one Michigan library annually.

The Spring Lake District Library and the White Pigeon Township Library each received a Library of Michigan Foundation Citation of Excellence, including a \$1,000 prize and a trophy.

The State Librarian's Excellence Award is sponsored by Hantz Group, Inc. and Edward Surovell Realtors.



*Washtenaw County  
Library for the Blind  
Left to right:  
Nancy Robertson,  
Tim Stecker,  
Joanna Bidlack,  
Charley Wolfe,  
Susan J. Greenberg,  
Martha DeLano Davis,  
Zoe Brown,  
Mary Morgan,  
Margaret Wolfe,  
Sonia Matthews,  
Judith Moore,  
Elizabeth Riley and  
Mary E. Udoji*



*Spring Lake  
District Library  
Left to right:  
Nancy Robertson,  
Judy Broadworth,  
Perri Saunders,  
LuAnn Hakala,  
Kelley Taylor,  
Cynthia Cox,  
Judith Moore and  
Elizabeth Riley*



*White Pigeon  
Township Library for  
the Blind and  
Physically Handicapped  
Left to right:  
Nancy Robertson,  
Barbara Anderson,  
Claudette Bottema,  
Claire Sheridan,  
Kathy DeBone,  
Lisa Donner,  
Judith Moore and  
Elizabeth Riley*

## Bill & Melinda Gates PAC HUG Program

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced its Public Access Computer Hardware Upgrade Grant (PAC HUG) program in September 2005. The first step in the application process was for all Michigan public libraries that had received the original Gates computers to participate in an inventory process. The Library of Michigan invited all library cooperative directors and additional staff, as desired, to a training for this inventory process on Sept. 26, 2005.

Over the next few months, we achieved 100-percent participation in the inventory process, so that the grant to the Gates Foundation could be written for the maximum amount. The Library of Michigan submitted the grant application to the foundation in February 2006, asking to replace 1,344 computers at 420 libraries in year one (2006) and 905 computers at 316 libraries in year two (2007). In consideration of volume discounts, the grant was written to replace 65 percent more computers for 75 percent more libraries than were funded in the original Gates grant of 1999.

The Library of Michigan received approval of its PAC HUG grant application in March 2006, and the contract agreement process began. By mid-May 2006, contracts were signed and funding was received into the Library of Michigan Foundation in the amount of \$2,044,500. The LM Foundation, with its ability to invest these funds, has accrued interest on the money, which will be put into further computer purchases for public libraries, as specified by the grant.

*continued on page 4*

The library cooperative directors agreed to administer grant funds on behalf of their member libraries. Each cooperative will have a grant agreement with the Library of Michigan specifying its obligation to its members as well as to the Library of Michigan per the Gates Foundation. The per-computer grant amount for year one is \$1,060. In addition, each cooperative will receive \$40 per unit from the PAC HUG grant administrative funding.

The eligible libraries are scheduled to replace the same number of computers as they were originally granted. If the library has additional computers in need of replacement, this need would potentially be filled in year two (2007), when priority 3 needs may be considered. This will be a separate process with different rules, to be determined at a later date.

For more information, see [http://michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-18833\\_38068—,00.html](http://michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-18833_38068—,00.html).

## LSTA 2007 – Competitive Grants are Back!

The Library of Michigan is pleased to announce the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant program for fiscal year 2007. This year, grant opportunities exist in the following areas:

- collaboration and partnership
- engaging youth

The application deadline is Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2007. Additional program information, instructions to sign up for the LSTA listserv and a downloadable application are available at <http://www.michigan.gov/lsta>.

To request a printed copy of the grant program handbook, please contact Kyle Ripley at [kripley@michigan.gov](mailto:kripley@michigan.gov). If you have questions regarding the 2007 grant program, please contact Karren Reish at [kreish@michigan.gov](mailto:kreish@michigan.gov) or (517) 241-0021

## New Vital Records Collection Provides Easy Access to Key Family History Research Tool

A new collection of Michigan vital records, an indispensable tool for family history research, is now available on microfilm at the Library of Michigan.

Michigan Death Records, 1897-1920, were previously available only through a request to the Michigan Vital Records Office for a search fee of at least \$26. Researchers may now search records for free and get copies at a fraction of the cost - 20 cents per photocopy.

The Library of Michigan is able to provide this resource, and additional records collections to be made available in the future, thanks to a donation from the Michigan Genealogical Council. Legislation sponsored by Sen. Tom George (Public Act 73 of 2006) allows for the transfer of certain vital records from the state registrar to the Library of Michigan, enabling public access and facilitating genealogical research.

This set of records supplements the Library of Michigan's existing vital records collection, which also includes Michigan death records from 1867 to 1897. Vital records are one of the fundamental, and most heavily used, resources used in genealogy research. Besides indicating dates of birth, death, marriage and divorce, they can also reveal parents' names and birthplaces, age, marital status and much more.



*State Registrar Glenn Copeland, State Senator Tom George, State Librarian Nancy Robertson, Nick Bozen of HAL Regulatory Affairs, Cynthia Grostick of the Michigan Genealogical Council and Library of Michigan Special Collections Manager Randy Riley at the presentation of the 1897-1920 Michigan Death Records at the Library of Michigan.*



## Peggy Sawyer Williams Receives the 2006 Genealogy Appreciation Award

The Library of Michigan honored Peggy Sawyer Williams of the Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society with the 2006 Genealogy Appreciation Award on Oct. 14. The award is presented to a Michigan genealogist who has significantly promoted genealogical research in the state and has helped to trumpet the great resources available at the Library of Michigan. Williams served as the president of the Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society, one of the oldest African American genealogical societies in the country and the first in Michigan, from 1999 through 2006.

An experienced genealogist with a special interest in helping those who are just starting their research, Peggy Williams has conducted numerous genealogical workshops in the Detroit and Ann Arbor areas, and has appeared on Detroit-area television and radio programs. She has expertise in organization and completion of data collection, using charts and forms, vital records and other important documents and has done extensive research on her Sawyer-Guy family, her husband's family and many other extended families.

The Library of Michigan has presented the Genealogy Appreciation Award since 2001 as part of the October Family History Month celebration.



*Left to right: Library of Michigan Special Collections Manager Randy Riley, Peggy Sawyer Williams and State Librarian Nancy Robertson*

## LM Staff Member Receives Eleanor Boyles Professional Development Award

Bernadette Bartlett, Michigan documents librarian for the Library of Michigan, has received the first Eleanor Boyles Professional Development Award from the Government Documents Round Table (GODORT) of Michigan.



*Bernadette Bartlett*

Bernadette applied for funding to help cover the cost of attending an interagency seminar in Washington, D.C. The GODORT of Michigan Executive Committee weighed several factors before approving the request, including the fact that Bernadette had contributed to the ongoing success of GODORT of Michigan in the past, that the training opportunity would help her grow professionally and better understand the role of government information, that the trip would enable her to serve the government documents community in Michigan even more in the future, and that her library was unable to provide out-of-state travel funds.

## The 300 Millionth American: Implications for Future Population Growth

*By Kenneth Darga, State Demographer*

A few decades ago, there was widespread concern about overpopulation in America. The number of U.S. residents had increased by more than 13 percent between 1960 and 1970. Continued exponential growth at that rate would have led to population levels of 296 million by 2000, 1 billion by 2100 and 154 billion by 2500.

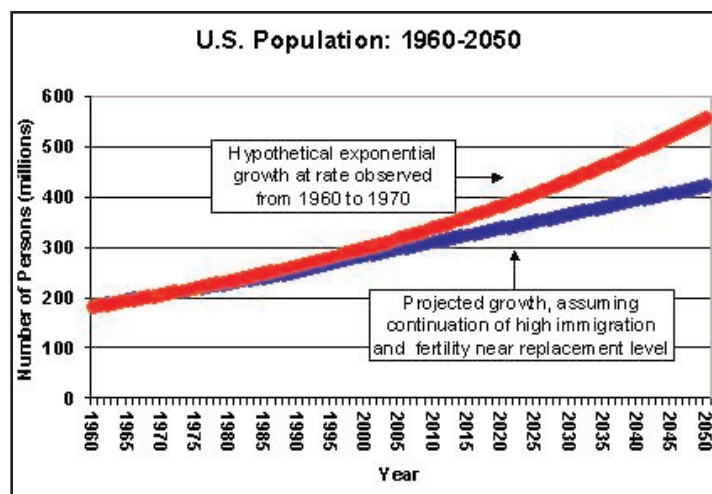
On the surface, the birth of the 300 millionth U.S. resident — or, almost as likely, the entry of the 300 millionth resident from abroad — seems to be consistent with that concern. It took 54 years for our population to grow from 100 million to 200 million, but it then took only 37 years to grow from 200 million to 300 million. Will our growth keep accelerating until we finally reach the feared 154 billion?

Not likely. The foremost concern among demographers now is about de-population, particularly in Europe and Japan.

Under favorable circumstances, women need to average 2.1 children apiece in order for a nation to maintain its population level over the long term. (That extra tenth of a child makes up for those members of the new generation who do not survive through childbearing age themselves.) A higher birth rate is required when war, disease or natural disasters cause death rates to increase. But women are averaging only 1.6 children apiece in Canada, 1.4 in Japan, 1.3 in Italy and even lower levels in 15 other countries. Even if all other disasters are averted, these nations face very large population declines unless their birth rates or immigration rates increase. In addition, they face serious long-term imbalances in their ratio of workers to retirees, since each new generation is smaller than the generations that came before it.

The demographic prognosis for the U.S. is much less dire. Although women born in the U.S. are averaging fewer than 2.1 children apiece, the overall birth rate is very close to that “replacement” level due to somewhat higher fertility among immigrants. The entry of young adults from abroad is also making up for the children that Baby Boomers did not have.

As a result, the U.S. population is projected to grow at a moderate rate during the current century, reaching 400 million in about 2043. (If foreign immigration slows or if the fertility of second-generation immigrants comes to mirror that of other U.S. born residents, then our population will grow more slowly.) The ratio of working-age people to retirement-age people is projected to reach 2.7 by 2050 — much lower than in previous centuries, when our age structure was shaped by high birth rates and rapid growth, but not far from the ratio of 2.9 that would be found in a hypothetical stable population with current mortality rates and zero population growth.



## New Census Data Coordinator Joins LM Staff

The next time you contact the Library of Michigan for guidance in finding or using census data, you may hear a new voice on the other end of the line.



We are pleased to announce the addition of Elisia Johnson to our staff. As census data coordinator, Elisia will be in charge of the State Data Center program and the Business and Industry Data Center program. Elisia has a master's degree in library and information science from Wayne State University, and she comes to us from a position as librarian and legal writer coordinator in the Michigan Department of Corrections. She is located in the Library Development and Data Services unit on the fifth floor of the Library of Michigan.

Elisia can be reached at [JohnsonEE@michigan.gov](mailto:JohnsonEE@michigan.gov), or by calling (517) 373-2548. Census data questions and other information requests should be routed through the reference librarians at [Librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:Librarian@michigan.gov) or (517) 373-1300.

The State Data Center (SDC) program was established by the U.S. Census Bureau to increase access to census-related information and to facilitate its appropriate use. The Business and Industry Center (BIDC) program was later created to meet the needs of businesses and organizations for economic data. Together, the SDC/BIDC program is the official repository of demographic, economic and social data produced by the U.S. Census Bureau for Michigan.

In Michigan, the SDC/BIDC program is administered by the census data coordinator at the Library of Michigan. The program represents a successful partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau, providing data, products and services to all sectors of the community. These include academia, businesses, governments, non-profit agencies and private citizens.

These products and services are used for a variety of purposes, including economic development initiatives, targeting of services, fund distribution, formulating public policy, community planning, grant writing and business start-ups. The program consists of a statewide network of affiliate organizations, all working together to provide census-related data and services to local communities.

The Library of Michigan also participates in the Federal-State Cooperatives for Population Estimates and Projections. These programs were also established by the U.S. Census Bureau to coordinate demographic activities of state and federal governments and to provide opportunities for states to improve the data produced by the federal government. These cooperatives produce annual estimates of population and population characteristics (such as age and race) by state, county, city, township and village. The state demographer at the Library of Michigan is responsible for producing official projections of Michigan's population and for assisting other state departments in understanding and using demographic data.

To learn more about census and demographic data, visit [www.michigan.gov/census](http://www.michigan.gov/census)

## Michigan's Authors, Michigan's Treasures!

Are there authors in your hometown? Which children's authors are willing to come do an event at your library or school? Where can you find biographical information for an early Michigan author? The Michigan Authors & Illustrators (MAIA) database has it all!

MAIA is available through the Michigan eLibrary or directly at <http://web.mel.org/miai/index.html>. It includes information on authors and illustrators born in Michigan, who live in Michigan, or who have written books about or set in Michigan. Unveiled in September 2002, the database is updated continually and includes biographical information on the author, a bibliography of works by and about the author, lists of awards, photos and book covers, personal statements and whether or not the author is available for presentations. MAIA is even award-winning, having received a certificate of commendation from the American Association of School Librarians in 2003.

The Michigan Association for Media in Education provides, researches and edits MAIA's content, and the Library of Michigan and the Michigan Center for the Book provide programming and technical administration. We rely on information from authors, so the database includes a questionnaire for authors who would like to submit information for inclusion or update existing entries.

For further information on the Michigan Center for the Book's programs and its affiliates, please go to <http://www.michigan.gov/mcfb>. For further information on the Michigan Association of Media in Education, please go to <http://www.mimame.org/>.



# MeL -The Library Made with Me in Mind!

## MeL Earns Top Honors from Center for Digital Government

Earlier this year, the Michigan eLibrary (MeL) earned national public praise for being an excellent return on investment from state government to citizens. The California-based Center for Digital Government bestowed upon MeL a 2006 Digital Government Achievement Award in the “government-to-citizen” category as part of the Center’s annual “Best of the Web” and Digital Government Achievement Awards competition.



*On Sept. 22 the winners of the Best of the Web and Digital Government Achievement awards gathered at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas to accept their awards. Shown here is MeL coordinator Sue Davidsen with other winning State of Michigan employees from the Department of Information Technology.*

The Digital Government Achievement Award is a national program that recognizes outstanding agency and department Web sites and applications that enhance information interactions, transactions and/or services. The categories include government-to-government, government-to-business, government-to-citizen and government internal.

“Our 2006 awards showcase the best state and local government Web sites and on-line applications in the nation,” said Cathilea Robinett, executive director of the Center for Digital Government. “These winners set the mark for delivering innovative, efficient and effective government services to all of their many constituencies.”

State Librarian Nancy Robertson commended the many people, organizations and private-sector partners that have contributed to MeL’s success, stating, “MeL continues to be a collaboration in every sense, and it’s because of our shared mission – equitable access to quality information for every resident – that MeL is the full-service resource it is today.”

## MeL Database Request For Proposal

The evaluations are now under way for the next round of MeL database subscriptions (2007-2010). The results of the evaluations being done by a large crew of volunteers through January will be compiled and presented to the state librarian along with the recommendations of the Library of Michigan staff who are reading the responses to the RFP. The final decision will be made by the state librarian in the spring. Winning bids will be announced in summer 2007, so libraries will have time to change their handouts and training materials.

## MeL Changes Are on the Way!

In the summer of 2006, Sonya Schryer Norris, Everyl Yankee and a team from the East Lansing Public Library conducted the first-ever usability study of MeL. While we learned that over 80 percent of users love MeL, we also found some areas that could benefit from closer consideration. Based on the results of our study, MeL will be redesigned and debut with a fresh new look and a new interface in early 2007. Employing user-centered design methodology, the MeL redesign team has been busy all fall. We’re confident the latest round of enhancements will make MeL an even stronger, more intuitive resource.

Read more about the usability study in an article, written by Sonya Schryer Norris, recently published in *Library Journal*:  
<http://www.libraryjournal.com/article/CA6382982.html>.

## MeL Presentations and Training Available Statewide

Do you know of a group that would like to learn all the ins and outs of the Michigan eLibrary? Can you think of a local club, organization or community group that could truly benefit from knowing how to effectively use the varied MeL components?

MeL coordinator Sue Davidsen is available to give presentations – to both librarians and non-librarians – on the many resources available in this 24-hour, seven-day-a-week



library. Sue will gladly travel around the state to introduce “newbies” to MeL or to go more in-depth with the “oldies” among you. For more information and scheduling requests, contact Sue at [davidsens@michigan.gov](mailto:davidsens@michigan.gov).

Don't forget about free MeL database training for librarians, in groups of eight or more, provided by the Michigan Library Consortium (<http://www.mlcnet.org>).

## MeL by the Numbers (as of Nov. 1, 2006)

Participating MeLCat libraries: 114  
Number of items available in MeLCat: 19.4 million  
MeL database searches for fiscal year 2006: 9,755,079  
MeL database retrievals for fiscal year: 25,892,452  
MeL Internet hits for fiscal year 2006: 1,271,688

## Get Smart

## Changes Ahead for Beginning Workshop

The Library of Michigan's annual training event for new public library staff and directors will not be held in 2007. Beginning Workshop (BW) will be on hiatus while LM staff craft a new version of the workshop to respond to the needs and wants of Michigan library staff.

Building on the success of recent modifications to BW, the redesign will feature new content, alternate delivery methods, flexible scheduling and more. In the coming months, the Michigan library community will be invited to provide input for the redesign. The new program will launch in early 2008.

During this hiatus, any staff person who is *required* to earn the Level VII certificate in 2007 for the purpose of state aid eligibility will be granted an extension through the end of 2008. If you will need an extension, please contact Deb Bacon-Ziegler at [bacon-zieglerd@michigan.gov](mailto:bacon-zieglerd@michigan.gov).

## Rural Libraries 2.0

Planning is well under way for the 2007 Loleta Fyan Rural Libraries Conference (RLC) to be held May 7-9, 2007 at the Grand Traverse Resort. The Library of Michigan has received a Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Rural Libraries Sustainability Program grant that will allow for exciting additions to our conference.

### Conference Web Page and Blog

For full details on the conference, including additional information on the topics below, visit <http://www.michigan.gov/ldds> and follow the link to RLC.

For the latest on conference tips and news, visit the RLC blog at <http://rlc2007.blogspot.com>.

### Registration and Accommodations

Conference registration will begin in early 2007. **There is no fee for full conference registration** because the grant-funded Rural Libraries Sustainability Project curriculum will be delivered as part of the conference programming. Attendees will be responsible for travel and accommodations at the Grand Traverse Resort.

Room rates for the conference are \$99 (hotel) and \$129 (tower) per night. To make your reservation, call the Grand Traverse Resort main number (800-748-0303), ask for the Reservations Department and then mention the Library of Michigan to get the group rates.

### Conference Awards

Do you know someone at a rural library who is a leader in our profession? How about someone who goes the extra mile when working with children and teens? Maybe a trustee or Friend who always comes through for the library, no matter what? Here's your chance to let them shine! Nominate your exceptional library colleagues, trustees and Friends for a Loleta Fyan Rural Libraries Conference Award.

Award descriptions, nomination forms, and deadlines are available on the RLC Web page.

## Programs and Keynote Speakers

The 2007 conference will feature four (four!) keynote speakers. In keeping with our 2.0 theme, our conference will begin with a luncheon presentation by one (or two) of the famous faces of the library 2.0 world. Maureen Burns will keep us laughing and thinking at our first dinner banquet and on Tuesday evening, we will have a nationally known mystery author. On Wednesday, our final luncheon will again feature the topic of library 2.0, this time with a Michigan spin.

Of course, no conference is complete without Roger Mendel's traditional letter from Lake Neverwuz. Marian T. Librarian, director of the Lake Neverwuz Library, is currently taking advantage of the RLC blog to get her words of wisdom out to attendees. Don't miss Marian's tips on conference fashion and much more!

Programming for the 2007 conference will be a mix of all-conference sessions and breakout sessions. The all-conference sessions will feature curriculum from the Gates Rural Library Sustainability Project. Watch for a full conference agenda on the RLC Web page in early 2007.

## Legal-Ease

### USA PATRIOT Act Reauthorization and Its Impact on Libraries

*By Lance M. Werner, Library Law Specialist*

The USA PATRIOT Act (the act)\* was signed into law on Oct. 26, 2001. The act greatly expanded federal law enforcement surveillance and investigatory powers. It was set to expire or "sunset" on Dec. 31, 2005, but was reauthorized by Congress and the president. On March 9, 2006, President George W. Bush signed the reauthorization legislation into law.

The reauthorization version contained noteworthy changes to the original act. Among the changes was a

new sunset provision whereby Section 215 of the act, the portion that affects libraries, is now scheduled to expire on Dec. 31, 2009. Other changes made to Section 215 of the act include:

- Under the reauthorization, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is now required to present facts to a secret federal court to demonstrate that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the library records being requested are relevant to an authorized investigation to obtain foreign intelligence information not concerning a United States person or to protect against international terrorism or spying. Under the original version of the act, the FBI was only required to assert that the library information being requested was being sought in connection with an authorized investigation.
- The reauthorization now requires personal approval for any request for records from a library by the director or deputy director of the FBI or the FBI executive assistant director.
- It is now possible for a recipient of a Section 215 order to challenge the order. A recipient may challenge the lawfulness of a Section 215 order through a special review panel of the Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act (FISA) Court.
- Recipients may also challenge the gag order attached to the Section 215 order after one year. The FISA Court judge will overturn the gag order if and only if the government fails to certify and the judge does not find that allowing the disclosure might endanger United States national security, interfere with a criminal, counter-terrorism or counter-intelligence investigation, potentially endanger the life or physical safety of any person, or interfere with diplomatic relations.
- Finally, the reauthorization contains express language that enables a recipient of a Section 215 order to disclose the receipt of the order to their attorney to procure legal services or advice. The reauthorization differs from the original act in that the recipient is not required to disclose the identity of their attorney to the FBI.

Section 505 of the reauthorized act is also of importance to public libraries. Section 505 provides that libraries, when functioning in a traditional manner, are not subject to



National Security Letter searches. It is also of note that the phrase “functioning in a traditional manner” includes Internet offerings by libraries.

Section 505 also states that libraries are subject to National Security Letter searches if they offer services defined under Section 2510(15) of Title 18 of the United States Code. A National Security Letter search means a search conducted by federal law enforcement authorized by a National Security Letter that has been served at the location where the search is to take place. Section 2510(15) defines electronic communication service to include any service enabling a person to send or receive electronic communications. Based on this, if a public library offers its users e-mail or instant-messenger access, it is subject to National Security Letter searches. The FBI has affirmed this position. The FBI maintains that any library that offers Internet access is subject to National Security Letter search.

The bottom line for Michigan’s public libraries is this: the USA PATRIOT Act is alive and well. Accordingly, Michigan’s public libraries should have policies in place to address situations where federal law enforcement officials are seeking information pursuant to the act.

Lastly, it is important to note that any policies and procedures that a public library had in place before the reauthorization of the act are still valid and applicable today, although a library may wish to revise them. All public libraries should have established, written policies and procedures that address requests for confidential library information, including requests made pursuant to the USA PATRIOT Act; the Michigan Library Privacy Act, 1982 PA 455, MCL 397.601 *et seq.*; and the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 *et seq.* It is vital that all library personnel become familiar with their library’s policies and are comfortable with implementing any applicable policy or procedure should the need arise.

\*The acronym USA PATRIOT Act stands for: Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001.

## Barbara Brown: foundation leader, family historian and good friend to the Library of Michigan

*by Sarah Lapshan, public  
information officer, Dept. of History, Arts and Libraries*

Those patrons who frequently visit the Library of Michigan’s Abrams genealogy collection are likely familiar with the name Barbara Brown. It’s because of Mrs. Brown and her family’s foundation – the Talbert and Leota Abrams Foundation – that much of the library’s collection exists at all.

What many may not know is that it was Mrs. Brown’s then emerging interest in family-history research that led her to suggest the Library of Michigan as an Abrams Foundation grant recipient.

“I became president of our family foundation in 1985 or 1986, and I confess that at first I didn’t even know what a foundation president actually *did*,” she joked. “But, I had been to the Library of Michigan quite often in the early ‘80s, pursuing my own family history, and I saw what a help the library was to the people it served.”

“I contacted the Library of Michigan and asked, ‘What’s on your genealogy wish list?’” Mrs. Brown explained. “They asked Carole Callard to propose a list and she came back with six different items. In the end, we accepted five of them. At that time, it was the single largest grant – \$135,000 – that the Abrams Foundation had ever made!”

That was the start of a terrific relationship that has since made it possible for the Library of Michigan to take its place as one of the nation’s top 10 genealogy collections and a true destination for family-history researchers at all skill levels.

“After my uncle’s death in 1990, the foundation became substantially larger and had more funds to work with,” she said. “Since that time, the Library of Michigan has remained a top priority because we could all see the benefits of what we were doing. I could see with my own eyes the influx of microfilm, the new resources being put on the shelves, the things that real people were using.”

Mrs. Brown commended the “thoughtful purchasing process” conducted by the Library of Michigan’s special collections manager Randy Riley and the rest of the library’s genealogy staff. “These folks made very sure that they only bought materials that people could actually use, things that would help people in their search to find family.”



*Barbara Brown and Library of Michigan’s special collections manager Randy Riley*

Earlier in 2006, the Abrams Foundation reached a memorable milestone. With its 2006 contribution, the foundation has now generously given more than \$2 million in support of the Library of Michigan’s genealogy collection and programs. It’s a worthwhile legacy of gift-giving, the value of which Mrs. Brown has no doubt.

While the staff at the Library of Michigan is certainly grateful for Mrs. Brown’s commitment to financially supporting the Abrams Foundation Historical Collection, State Librarian Nancy Robertson encourages people to recognize Barbara Brown for her material contributions to the field of genealogy. After all, Mrs. Brown is a published author in her own right (“Descendants of Christian Geiger the immigrant, 1700-1779 : a continuing family history” Creative Media, Inc., 1999), with a great deal of hands-on experience in tracking down those often-elusive family tree roots.

“The Library of Michigan couldn’t ask for a better friend, and the field of genealogy couldn’t find a more committed advocate or contributor,” said Robertson. “Barbara not only oversees gifts to the Library of Michigan – important dollars that have been the very livelihood of our state library’s genealogy collection and programs – she has taken on the challenge of unearthing chapters of her own family’s story and has put her experiences into print.”

Mrs. Brown said her “Aha!” moment came during the first few months when she’d begun researching her family at the Library of Michigan.

“When I started tracing my family history, the family I focused on was the Blodgetts; that was the family Abrams married into,” she said. “While I was working on census film, I’d find Blodgetts listed in the records and I couldn’t believe it. Those were really my people in those long-ago records.

“The whole experience just captured my imagination,” Mrs. Brown added. “People ask me why I ‘do genealogy’ and I have to say, really, for so many reasons. It keeps my mind inquisitive, it’s something you never, ever get through, and I go to bed at night, still thinking about the possibilities.”

Mrs. Brown’s next book, expected in early 2007 from Newbury Street Press, is an account of her family-research efforts in Germany, the country from which the Abrams emigrated.

“Until recently, my Abrams family line was my shortest history. Awhile back, I was talking to a cousin in California who said she knew someone who would be great at helping me track down that German ancestry,” Mrs. Brown explained. “This woman, Marilyn, and I became friends throughout this process, with her reporting regularly about her progress.

Mrs. Brown said that Marilyn was already traveling to Germany several times per year to research her own family, so it was easy for her to take on the Abrams research, too. Little did Mrs. Brown know, but she was about to get a huge shock.

“Marilyn discovered, to my surprise, that my family heritage was Jewish. It was something that was never mentioned by my parents or aunts or uncles, so it must have been a conscious decision to bury that part of our family history,” she said. “I’m sure that given the state of the world at that time, my family thought they were doing the best thing to protect themselves.”

Mrs. Brown said that the Abrams relatives made their way to America by way of New England, with her Jewish great-grandfather marrying into one of the well-to-do New England families.

She also noted with sadness that Marilyn, her researcher and friend, had recently passed away. “I’ll be grateful to Marilyn forever, because she gave me a part of my family I never knew existed.”

Perhaps that’s genealogy’s greatest reward, and one that Mrs. Brown hopes people never lose sight of.

“Some people think the most important thing about family history research is the end result, not the journey,” she said. “The Internet is a terrific tool – and one I’m doing my best to master – but I have never regretted all my travel to court houses, to libraries, to cemeteries, to wherever the records are, because *that’s* genealogy.

Because of the Abrams Foundation’s generosity to the Library of Michigan, current and future generations of family-history sleuths will be able to discover just how far back their own family trees stretch.